

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS  
FROM:**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS  
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **UN & BOSNIA: GAO PROBE**

**GAO GIVES MIXED REVIEWS TO U.N. IN BOSNIA,  
UNDERScores U.N. FAILURES:  
TIME FOR U.N. TO LEAVE, ALLOW BOSNIAN SELF-DEFENSE**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today released the results of a General Accounting Office study of U.N. operations in Bosnia. Senator Dole's statement follows:

The U.N.'s track record in the former Yugoslavia is marked by failure. In the aftermath of the U.N.'s ineffective and belated response to the bloodbath in Gorazde, we have seen a public display of bickering and criticism on the part of U.N. bureaucrats and military officials with responsibility for the paltry UNPROFOR operation in Bosnia.

All of this static will not succeed in hiding the fatal flaws in the U.N.'s approach to Bosnia.

### **GAO Reveals Successes & Failures**

A few months ago, I asked the General Accounting Office to investigate the effectiveness of U.N. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The GAO recently completed its report. I would like to commend the GAO staff for their thorough investigation. The report cites the U.N.'s main achievements as providing humanitarian assistance to a significant segment of the Bosnian population. UNPROFOR and UNHCR coordinated thousands of convoys and airlifts which provided vitally needed food. The U.S. played a key role in airdrops to besieged enclaves, as well.

On the other hand, the GAO's other findings underscored what we witnessed in Gorazde: the U.N.'s approach has been weak and inconsistent. The GAO report's conclusions reenforced my impressions that the U.N. is unable to effectively handle large, complex operations -- humanitarian or military.

### **Serious Failings in U.N. Leadership**

First and foremost, the GAO uncovered serious failings in U.N. leadership. As with any massive undertaking, leadership is critical. Among other problems, the U.N. did not establish a single authority to coordinate UNPROFOR and UNHCR efforts. In fact, what we have seen in the wake of Gorazde, public bickering between UNPROFOR and UNHCR officials undermines any efforts toward cooperation. This is compounded by the fact that the U.N. never developed an overall plan to integrate humanitarian objectives with supporting military assistance. Included in the GAO's report is a chart which illustrates the organization of U.N. and NATO efforts in Bosnia; this chart goes a long way toward explaining the coordination problems in Bosnia.

### **Failure to Assertively Deliver Aid**

Furthermore, the GAO report asserts that UNPROFOR has failed to use force consistently or even act assertively, despite being authorized in U.N. Security Council resolutions to use all means necessary to deliver humanitarian assistance. Consistent assertive action could have been better assured by establishing a unified authority from the outset of the operation. This lack of assertiveness combined with inconsistency undermined the U.N.'s credibility and eroded the effectiveness of U.N. operations. Finally, the GAO uncovered further evidence of weaknesses in U.N. command and control -- a subject of considerable concern here in the Congress.

### **UNPROFOR Obstacle to Solution**

This GAO report and the events of the last few weeks in Bosnia have brought me to the conclusion that the presence of UNPROFOR is an obstacle to a solution in Bosnia. The individual courage and commitment of these soldiers is not in question.

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What is in question is the wisdom of maintaining U.N. forces in Bosnia who are used increasingly by their governments and the U.N. bureaucracy as an excuse for not conducting effective air strikes against a broad range of Serbian military targets, and more egregiously, as an excuse for not lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian government.

**Get U.N. Out & Allow Bosnian Self-Defense**

The Bosnians do not need U.N. protection forces -- which is what UNPROFOR stands for -- which do not protect them, and prevent them from protecting themselves. It's time for UNPROFOR to leave, and time for the Bosnians to be allowed to defend themselves.

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